



WINTER WEATHER

WHEN CAUGHT IN A WINTER STORM...

Outside

- ❖ Find shelter
- ❖ Cover all exposed parts of the body, and try to stay dry.
- ❖ Do not eat snow, it will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.
- ❖ If no shelter is available:
- ❖ Prepare a lean-to, wind-break, or snow cave for protection from the wind.
- ❖ Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.
- ❖ Place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat.

In a Car or Truck

- ❖ Stay in your car or truck. Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.
- ❖ Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat.
- ❖ Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ❖ Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- ❖ Make yourself visible to rescuers.
- ❖ Turn on your dome light, at night, when running the engine.
- ❖ Tie a colored cloth to your antenna or door.
- ❖ Raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.
- ❖ Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

At Home or in a Building

- ❖ Stay inside.
- ❖ When using alternative heat use fire safeguards and properly ventilate.
- ❖ If no heat:
- ❖ Close off unneeded rooms.
- ❖ Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.
- ❖ Cover windows at night.

Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration. Wear layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration, and subsequent chill.

Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division